



# Bureau of HIV and STD Prevention

HIV/STD Clinical Resources Division  
HIV/STD Epidemiology Division  
HIV/STD Health Resources Division

Est. September 24, 1997

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HIV/STD Policy No. 410.001

## HEPATITIS B VACCINATION FOR ADOLESCENTS

### PURPOSE

This policy authorizes and encourages STD clinics under contract with the Texas Department of Health (TDH), Bureau of HIV and STD Prevention, or operated by TDH, to provide vaccination for the hepatitis B virus (HBV) to eligible persons 18 years of age or younger.

### AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code §81.005, §81.006; TDH Texas Vaccines for Children Program (TVFC), Adolescent Hepatitis B Vaccine Initiative; Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, VFC Resolution No. 02/03-1; Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines – 2002, MMWR 2002:51(No. RR-6).

### BACKGROUND

In the United States, most persons infected with hepatitis B virus were infected as adolescents or young adults. From 1992 through 1999, TDH received 3,710 reports of hepatitis B infection in adolescents and young adults ages 10 - 29<sup>1</sup>. Sexual transmission accounted for many of the new HBV infections that occurred in the United States during the past 10 years. Many adolescents seek services at public health clinics in Texas due to exposure to STDs. As a result, health care workers have the opportunity to discuss issues related to the prevention and treatment of HBV and offer advice related to this health care concern. In line with the Bureau's mission to prevent and control STDs, the Bureau encourages STD clinics to vaccinate all adolescents who have not been previously vaccinated by utilizing vaccine available from the Texas Vaccines for Children Program (TVFC).

### INFORMING ADOLESCENTS ABOUT METHODS OF AVOIDING INFECTION

Health care workers in STD clinics should inform previously unvaccinated adolescents who are sexually active about the availability of hepatitis B vaccine. All adolescents attending an STD clinic should be informed about how they can protect themselves from infection. For example, advise the person about the following:

1. abstaining from sexual activity,
2. limiting sexual partners to just one person,
3. using condoms,

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<sup>1</sup> Texas Department of Health. Texas Viral Hepatitis (1992-1999), Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance

4. avoiding nonsterile drug injection equipment or sterilizing shared equipment,
5. being vaccinated for HBV, and
6. the risks associated with using nonsterile needles for tattooing or body piercing.

## TVFC VACCINE ELIGIBILITY

The TVFC Program provides hepatitis B vaccine to STD clinics at no cost to be administered to all previously unvaccinated children and adolescents from birth through 18 years. STD clinics may not charge the patient for the cost of the vaccine.

Clinical staff should encourage youth to be vaccinated for HBV if they have not been previously vaccinated. *Parental consent is not required before immunizing adolescents for hepatitis B* (Family Code §32.001, Consent to Treatment by Child).

## DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE-SUPPLIED VACCINES

Health care providers determine eligibility for children 18 years of age or younger who receive the state-supplied vaccine by completing the Patient Eligibility Screening Record, TDH Form No. C10. A copy is retained in a file for each child receiving vaccines. Only one form is required to record HBV immunizations for each child as long as the child's eligibility status has not changed. Verification of the responses on the record is not required.

## MANAGEMENT OF YOUTHS EXPOSED TO HBV

A youth exposed to HBV should be offered post exposure prophylaxis. The success of the prophylaxis depends on how soon the vaccination is given after exposure and the number of subsequent vaccinations. STD clinics are expected to follow the treatment schedule for HBV found in the CDC's guideline, [Hepatitis B Virus: A Comprehensive Strategy for Eliminating Transmission in the United States Through Universal Childhood Vaccination: Recommendations of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee \(ACIP\)](#). These clinics are expected to develop protocols to insure completion of the vaccine series. A copy of the guideline is available on the Internet at [cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00033405.htm](http://cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00033405.htm) or by calling the TVFC Program at 1-800-252-9152 or (512) 458-7284, Ext. 6530.

## HOW TO BECOME A TVFC PROVIDER

Call the TVFC Program at 1-800-252-9152 to acquire vaccine and eligibility screening records from TDH or call (512) 458-7284 for questions on how to enroll in the program.

## VACCINATION FOR PERSONS OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE

STD clinics may continue to provide vaccinations to persons over 18 years of age. However, vaccine for persons over 18 years of age is not available through the TVFC

program. Clinics must obtain the vaccine for adults from other sources and may then provide the vaccination in the manner currently followed by the individual clinic.

#### DATE OF LAST REVIEW:

December 3, 2003 Updated to reflect current vaccine information and incorporate staff comments.

#### REVISIONS

Page 1, line 12 deleted the following references from the Authority section: "U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Recommendations and Reports, Prevention Guidelines, Hepatitis B*; 1996:01:01, and *Hepatitis B Virus: A Comprehensive Strategy for Eliminating Transmission in the United States Through Universal Childhood Vaccination: Recommendations of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee*; 1991:11:22"

Page 1, line 12 changed the Health and Safety Code citation from "Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81," to "Health and Safety Code §81.005, §81.006"

Page 1, line 13 added the following reference to the Authority section: "Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, VFC Resolution No. 02/03-1; Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines – 2002, MMWR 2002:51(No. RR-6)"

Page 1, lines 13-21 added the following epidemiologic data to the first two lines of the paragraph "In the United States, most persons infected with hepatitis B virus were infected as adolescents or young adults. From 1992 through 1999, TDH received 3,710 reports of hepatitis B infection in adolescents and young adults ages 10 - 29"

Page 1, line 27 replaced the word "eligible" with "all" after "STD clinics to vaccinate" and before "adolescents"

Page 1, lines 27-28 added "who have not been previously vaccinated" after the word adolescents and before the phrase "by utilizing"

Page 1, line 28 deleted the word "free" after the phrase "by utilizing" and before the word "vaccine"

Page 1, lines 33-34 added "in STD clinics" after the phrase "Health care workers" and before the words "should inform"; added the phrase "previously unvaccinated" after "should inform" and before the word "adolescents"; added "sexually active" and deleted "at risk of HBV infection" after the phrase "adolescents who are" and before the word "about"; added "the availability of hepatitis B vaccine" to the end of the sentence after the word "about" and deleted the sentence ending phrase "ways of reducing their risk"

Page 1, lines 34-36 added a new sentence, "All adolescents attending an STD clinic should be informed about how they can protect themselves from infection"

1	Page1, footer	added footer <sup>41</sup> Texas Department of Health. Texas Viral Hepatitis (1992-1999),
2		Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance”
3	Page 2, line 5	changed the title of the section from “ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE
4		VACCINATIONS” to “TVFC VACCINE ELIGIBILITY”
5	Page 2, lines 7-9	deleted the first paragraph of the section which read “Under the
6		TVFC any child 18 years of age or younger who meets one of the
7		criteria listed below is eligible” and replaced it with new text.
8	Page 2, line 10	deleted the list of criteria used to determine if a child 18 years of
9		age or younger would need to meet in order to be eligible to receive
10		vaccine. The deleted criteria included:
11		1. Persons born on or after November 1, 1991.
12		2. Asian-Pacific Islanders born after October 1, 1985 who
13		reside in households with first generation immigrants from countries
14		where there has been a high or an intermediate incidence of HBV
15		infection.
16		3. Adolescents and children residing in households with HBV
17		<u>carriers</u> .
18		4. Persons 11 through 18 years of age listed in the high-risk
19		groups below:
20		a) persons with multiple sex partners,
21		b) sex partners of HBV carriers,
22		c) injecting drug users,
23		d) homosexual and bisexual males,
24		e) those who are clinic patients (infected with an STD or
25		not),
26		f) persons who exchange sex for money or drugs,
27		g) those with occupational risk,
28		h) recipients of certain blood products,
29		i) those having household contacts with HBV carriers,
30		j) international travelers, or
31		k) adoptees from countries where HBV infection is
32		endemic.
33	Page 2, lines 11-13	deleted the last paragraph of the section which read “Clinical staff
34		should encourage these youths to be vaccinated for HBV if they are
35		not already vaccinated. <i>Parental consent is not required before</i>
36		<i>immunizing adolescents for hepatitis B in the high risk group above.</i>
37		Parental consent is required for routine immunization of
38		adolescents” and replaced it with new text.
39	Page 2, line 26	deleted “treated when identified by health care workers, provided
40		the youth will accept treatment” after “A youth exposed to HBV
41		should be” and replaced it with “ offered post exposure prophylaxis”
42	Page 2, lines 26-28	deleted the word “treatment” and inserted the word “prophylaxes”
43		after “The success of the” and before “depends on how soon”
44	Page 2, line 34	corrected the CDC URL for the referenced publication
45	Page 2, line 37	changed the title of the section from “HOW TO ACQUIRE
46		VACCINE AND ELIGIBILITY SCREENING RECORDS FROM
47		TDH” to “HOW TO BECOME A TVFC PROVIDER“

1     Page 2, lines 39-40     deleted the single paragraph under this section that read “Call the  
2                                 TVFC Program at 1-800-252-9152 or (512) 458-7284, Ext. 6530 for  
3                                 questions about getting a supply of the HBV vaccine and/or  
4                                 requests for initial supplies of the Patient Eligibility Screening  
5                                 Record” and replaced it with the current text.  
6     Page 3, line 1         deleted the word “purchase” and inserted the word “obtain” after  
7                                 “Clinics must” and before “the vaccine”, and inserted the phrase “  
8                                 for adults from other sources” after “the vaccine” and before “and  
9                                 may then”